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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 17 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

We have seen a letter dated 15 April 1997 addressed to you by the Ambassador of Niger based in Brussels transmitting a memorandum presented to the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir by the self-styled "True Representatives of the Kashmiri people".

In a democracy, representatives of the people can only be elected: they can neither be self-appointed nor designated by foreign countries. The Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys a popularly elected government, following democratic elections that were held last year. Only the popularly elected government of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys the credentials to represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of India totally rejects the baseless allegations contained in this document.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 10.

(Signed) Arundhati Ghose
Ambassador